

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated March 22, 2006, the Examiner rejected claim 7, under 35 U.S.C. §101, as allegedly lacking utility.

The Examiner objected to the Drawings in which FIG. 3 allegedly contains an informality and indicated that claims 1-6 are allowed.

Applicant disagrees with the prior art rejections of claim 7 noted above. However, in an effort to expedite the examination of the present application, claims 4-6 have been amended to provide a clearer presentation of the claimed subject matter and claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced and the cancellation of claim 7 renders the §101 rejection moot.

Moreover, FIG. 3 has been amended in the Replacement Sheet filed concurrently herewith to replace reference character “31b” with --61b--. Support for this may be found in the Specification: page 11, line 3. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests the immediate withdrawal of the objection to the Drawings and Specification.

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner’s reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant’s Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the Undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account No. **24-0037**. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

**PILLSBURY WINTHROP
SHAW PITTMAN LLP**



E. RICO HERNANDEZ
Reg. No. 47,641
Tel. No. 703.770.7788
Fax No. 703.770.7901

Date: June 14, 2006
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 770-7900

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please substitute as-filed FIG. 3 with revised FIG. 3 as submitted in
REPLACEMENT SHEET filed concurrently herewith.